

Whereas the Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, opposes the deployment of ground forces in Kosovo, as reflected in his testimony before Congress on October 6, 1998;

Whereas the lessons of United States military involvement in Bosnia clearly argue that the costs and duration of any such deployment for peacekeeping purposes will be much heavier and much longer than initially foreseen; and

Whereas the substantial drain on military readiness of a deployment in Kosovo would be inconsistent with the need, recently acknowledged by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to reverse the trends which are decimating the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to carry out the basic National Military Strategy of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That Congress hereby expresses its opposition to any deployment of United States ground forces into the Serbian province of Kosovo for peacemaking or peacekeeping purposes.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 126—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD REASSERT THE TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 126

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

Whereas the United States has never endorsed the creation of an independent Palestinian state;

Whereas the United States has traditionally opposed the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state because of concerns that such a state could pose a threat to Israel and would likely have a destabilizing effect on the entire Middle East;

Whereas the United States stated its position, after Israel and the Palestinians signed the Oslo Accords, that all questions of Palestinian sovereignty and statehood are matters which must be mutually agreed upon by the parties;

Whereas, the Administration's recent statements on a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state have been contradictory and confusing;

Whereas a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood would be a grievous violation of the Oslo Accords;

Whereas despite the Oslo Accords, Chairman Arafat, his cabinet, and the Palestinian National Council, have threatened to unilaterally proclaim the establishment of a Palestinian state in May, 1999;

Whereas the Palestinian cabinet, on September 24, 1998 stated that "at the end of the interim period, it (the Palestinian government) shall declare the establishment of a Palestinian state on all Palestinian land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state";

Whereas Chairman Arafat in speaking to the United Nations on September 28, 1998, called on world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state;

Whereas Chairman Arafat stated on July 15, 1998, that "[t]here is a transition period of

5 years and after 5 years we have the right to declare an independent Palestinian state.";

Whereas Palestinian National Council Speaker Salim al-Za'nun stated on June 15, 1998, that: "If following our declaration of a state, Israel renews its occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian people will struggle and resist the occupier with all means possible, including armed struggle": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) Israel, and Israel alone, can determine its security needs; and

(2) The final political status of the Palestinian entity can only be determined through bilateral negotiations and agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and

(3) Any such unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would be a grievous violation of the Oslo Accords, would seriously impede any possibility of advancing the peace process, and would have severe negative consequences for Palestinian relations with the United States; and

(4) The President should now publicly and unequivocally state that the United States will actively oppose such a unilateral declaration and will not extend recognition to any unilaterally declared Palestinian state.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today, along with my colleague from Oregon, Senator Ron WYDEN, I submit a Concurrent Resolution opposing the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State. The House version of this resolution is being introduced by Rep. JIM SEXTON, my colleague from New Jersey.

Mr. President, Yasir Arafat seeks to abandon the Oslo process and unilaterally declare a Palestinian state at the conclusion of the transition period of five years, in May 1999. He has even gone as far as calling upon world leaders to support an independent Palestinian state. This is wholly unacceptable.

I have in the past questioned Arafat's motives and his sincerity and I do so again. This act on his part will be a clear abrogation of the Peace Process and a slap in the face to Israel which has adhered to the process, despite continual non-compliance by the Palestinians. But then, we should not be surprised. This is the same group that harbors and praises those who kill innocent men, women and children in bus bombings that kill Israelis and Americans alike.

Five years ago, the world was provided with a glimmer of hope that the leopard had changed its spots, but that hope was never realized. Not only did the leopard not change his spots, he has grown bigger and bolder. The Palestinian Authority, which Arafat now heads, has been legitimized and now carries out its aggressive policies, not under the cover of darkness like the PLO used to do, but in broad daylight for all to see. In no way can the United States lend further credence to this terrorist force.

The purpose of this resolution is to send the message that the United States cannot and should not extend recognition to a unilaterally declared

Palestinian state. Moreover, the President should publicly and unequivocally state that the United States will actively oppose such a declaration. If Israel were to take a unilateral action in defiance of Oslo, the Palestinians would express outrage over the violations. The Palestinians view themselves as different however. Such a move by the Palestinians cannot be allowed. The final political status of the Palestinians can only be determined through bilateral negotiation and agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, not by a unilateral act in defiance of the very agreement the Palestinians signed with Israel.

Mr. President, my colleagues and I are serious. The Administration must understand that such a move by the Palestinians is an insult to all those who were patient in light of all of the Palestinian violations of the peace. Moreover, the Administration in legitimizing these acts, would be humiliating Israel which is the only true democracy in the Middle East and our close ally. The Administration's confusion on the issue in recent months has not helped matters and the extension of diplomatic recognition would severely harm the U.S. ability to act as an impartial mediator between the two parties. Simply put, U.S. recognition of a Palestinian declaration of statehood would be the acceptance and acquiescence of the Palestinians' violation of its commitments under Oslo. We would be rewarding them for their flagrant violations of the Peace Process. This would be an error of historical proportion. I can only hope we do not make this mistake.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and urge its speedy passage.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CALIFORNIA INDIAN POLICY EXTENSION ACT OF 1998

CAMPBELL AMENDMENT NO. 3788

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CAMPBELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 3069) to extend the Advisory Council on California Indian Policy to allow the Advisory Council to advise Congress on the implementation of the proposals and recommendations of the Advisory Council; as follows:

Strike section 4.

FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT OF 1998

NICKLES AMENDMENT NO. 3789

Mr. NICKLES proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2431) to establish an Office of Religious Persecution